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## **Kansas receives funds to improve preventive healthcare for disabled**

The Kansas Health Policy Authority (KHPA), as the single State Medicaid Agency, was awarded over \$900,000 to pilot a project that aims to improve preventive health care for disabled Kansans who are enrolled in Medicaid, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt announced yesterday.

“We are pleased with this news, because it will allow us to use data and technology in an innovative way to improve the health care services provided to our Medicaid members. The Health Policy Authority, as the agency responsible for Medicaid, the state employee health plan and coordinating health reform activities, is in a unique position to apply the lessons we learn from this pilot in other areas,” said Dr. Andrew Allison, Acting Medicaid Director and Deputy Director of KHPA.

The two-year grant will go toward piloting the use of a predictive modeling tool to identify health needs and improve preventive health care in the disabled Medicaid population. Case managers at selected Community Developmental Disability Organizations (CDDO’s) and Community Mental Health Centers (CMHC’s) will be provided training and a computerized, claims-based querying system that will allow them to ascertain the history of, and need for, preventive health care services for the beneficiaries they serve.

“By providing case managers the tool to use Medicaid claims data to ensure that screenings and preventive care opportunities are not missed, overall health outcomes should improve – resulting in savings to the Kansas Medicaid program,” said Dr. Allison.

Partners with KHPA on this project are Ingenix Public Sector Solutions, Inc. and the University of Kansas Medical Center Schools of Medicine and Pharmacy.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services awarded \$103 million to 27 states across the nation to fund implementation of new ways to improve Medicaid efficiency, economy and quality of care. States will use the funds to implement innovative systems to get more value out of the money they spend providing health care to their low-income elderly, children and disabled citizens.

Congress approved a total of \$150 million for these Medicaid “transformation grants” in the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (DRA) to be distributed over fiscal years 2007 and 2008. Today’s award of the first \$103 million will be followed later in the year with a second solicitation for the remaining \$47 million. States will receive the funds over the next two years.

In part, the funds will support more widespread use of electronic health care records that can be accessed by whole treatment teams, a move within the medical community to improve quality of care and reduce the potential for medical errors.

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